

What is claimed is:

1. A method for initializing an array of drives, comprising:
providing an array of drives including a first drive and a second drive, a controller and a bus subsystem that enables communications between said controller and said array of drives, each of said drives being associated with a priority and with said first drive having
5 greater priority than said second drive; and
causing substantially equal usage of said bus subsystem by all of said drives while performing a zero initialization of said drives.
2. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
said causing step includes providing write operations to all said drives of said array during substantially all the time said zero initialization of said drives is being performed.
3. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
said causing step includes controlling utilization of said bus subsystem independently of said priority.
4. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
said causing step includes issuing a predetermined number of at least one write operation to said first drive and a predetermined number of at least one write operation to said second drive and in which subsequent issuing of another write operation to said first
5 drive is made after at least one of said predetermined number is completed by said second

drive and said first drive.

5. A method, as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said predetermined number of at least one write operation issued to said first drive relates to one or more ranges of logical block addresses (LBAs).

6. A method, as claimed in Claim 5, wherein:

said predetermined number is four.

7. A method, as claimed in Claim 5, wherein:

said causing step includes checking whether a write operation for at least one of said one or more ranges of LBAs has been completed to each of said drives of said array.

8. A method, as claimed in Claim 7, wherein:

said causing step includes issuing a write operation for a next one or more LBA ranges to be written to each of said drives of said array.

9. An apparatus for initializing an array of drives, comprising:

an array of drives for storing information, said array of drives including at least a first drive and a second drive with said first drive being associated with a higher priority than said second drive;

5 a bus subsystem connected to said array of drives; and

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a controller in communication with said array of drives using said bus subsystem, said controller for controlling issuance of write operations, including a first write operation and a second write operation, to said array of drives in order to initialize said drives, wherein said controller controls said first write operation to at least each of said first and second drives and controls said second write operation to at least said first and second drives and in which said second write operation is controlled to said first drive after said first write operation is controlled to said second drive and to said first drive.

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10. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 9, wherein:

said bus subsystem is shared substantially equally by all said drives of said array when said controller controls said first and second write operations.

11. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 9, wherein:

said write operations are implemented by all of said drives substantially continuously in order to initialize said drives of said array .

12. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 9, wherein:

said controller controls a predetermined number of at least one write operation to at least said first and second drives and with said predetermined number of at least one write operation to said first and second drives being controlled before issuance of at least said second write operation.

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13. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:
said predetermined number relates to one or more ranges of logical block addresses (LBAs).

14. A method, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:
said predetermined number is at least four.

15. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 13, wherein:
said controller checks whether one write operation is completed for at least one of said ranges of said LBAs to each of said drives of said array.

16. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 15, wherein:
said controller issues a next write operation to each of said drives of said array for a next range of LBAs after a determination is made that said one write operation is completed for said at least one LBA range.

17. An apparatus, as claimed in Claim 9, wherein:
said first drive has the highest priority and said second drive has the lowest priority of said drives of said array and said write operations are used to zero initialize said drives.